



Village of River Grove, Illinois Newsletter

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Tracy D. Aller Trustee
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Roger V. Sewell Trustee
Bob Thomas Trustee

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Friendly Neighbors,

Season's greetings and Merry Christmas to all the hard-working families in River Grove. There is not another place on earth I would rather spend the holidays than in River Grove. The Christmas cheer is everywhere with lights on homes, wreaths on doors, and well-wishing friendly neighbors on every block. The small town feel gives me great warmth knowing my wife and I have chosen a safe and diverse community to raise our family. When shopping this holiday season, please support our great local restaurants, utilize one of the local service businesses, or patronize one of our local specialty shops. Spending inside the village goes a long way in the local economy, builds a sense of community and keeps residents working. The Christmas season can be very busy and stressful for some. Take time to spend with family and friends. Also, don't forget to thank a veteran for keeping us safe this holiday season, and God Bless the men and women of Police and Fire departments for watching over us all.

Best wishes in 2019, and may it be your best year yet!!

Best Regards, Mayor David B. Guerin
E-mail (mayor@rivergroveil.gov)

FROM THE RIVER GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The River Grove Fire Department's wish is for all our residents to have a happy holiday season. With some awareness and caution you can ensure your family stays SAFE during this festive time. Here are some suggestions for your holiday decorating.

Christmas Trees:

- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from all heat sources; fire places, candles radiators and heat vents.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking exits.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
- Place in a level and sturdy stand and water frequently.
- Use lights that are tested by recognized laboratory (UL).
- Replace and discard worn or damaged strings of lights.
- Always follow manufacturer's instructions when using any decoration.
- Always turn off lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Candles:

- All candles should be in a sturdy holder.
- Candles should be placed on a flat, un-cluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully, keeping hair and loose clothing away from the flame.
- Lit candles should not be placed in windows where curtains or window treatments could catch fire.
- Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the house or going to bed.
- Never light candles if someone in the home is using oxygen.

Remember: Candles are an open flame. 70% of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to lit candles. PLEASE use extreme caution when using candles; or consider using flameless candles for your holiday decorating. They look and smell like real candles and are considerably safer.

FROM POLICE CHIEF RODGER LONI

The Village of River Grove Police Department has acquired a \$14,000 grant through the Illinois Department of Transportation. This grant has been designated for speed enforcement in River Grove. This will improve our efforts to increase the safety of our residents on all our streets during the daylight and evening hours. Mayor Dave Guerin wants the police force to pay particular attention to the side streets in River Grove. **"Safety is our number one goal in the village,"** said Mayor Guerin.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES FROM A FUTURE TRUSTEE

It was December 1974, maybe 1975. I was 9 or 10. The teachers found it difficult keep our minds on school work. Our excitement and anticipation for Christmas break was hard to contain. Kiddieland was closed for the season but we still found ourselves in their parking lot to pick up our Christmas tree. Maybe a fir, maybe a pine. It didn't matter. The excitement of bringing our new tree home was undeniable. The lot full of real trees glowing under the Kiddieland sign will be burned in my memory forever. Saturday morning meant a trip to Food Town on Grand Ave...While mom grocery shopped, dad and I walked down to Mary's Grill for a hamburger.

(Do you remember Mary's Grill)? There was hustle, bustle and Christmas cheer everywhere you looked. Later, we went over to the American Legion for a visit with Santa Claus to be sure he had received the list I had sent to him. We always left with a coloring book and a bag of Maurice Lenell cookies. (The pinwheels were my favorite).

We lived on Leyden and my Grandma lived on Budd St. On Christmas Eve, this meant an actual ride "over the river and through the woods to Grandmothers house"...Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and Christmas fun was had by all. We drove home past the Village Hall which was always decorated with big red Christmas bells that lit up over the "Seasons Greetings" sign. Now home to "try to sleep" without much luck. Christmas morning was here, we ran downstairs to find that Santa came...He always came.

My childhood memories of Christmas in River Grove remain among the fondest memories I will ever have. Happy Holidays and warm wishes to all of our fellow River Grover's during this wonderful season.

Bobby Thomas, Trustee

CHEERS TO COMPTROLLER GREG PETERS for serving two years as our village comptroller. Having his financial expertise, experience and knowledge has helped put our beloved village in a much better financial position than it was in two years ago. We will continue making investments in our infrastructure, Human Resources and expanding resident services. This administration is committed to taking a business approach to municipal management and stretching the residents tax dollar, while maintaining and growing the value of your home. We will continue to expand commercial, residential and economic development to shift the burden off the tax payer and keep more of your hard earned dollars in your pocket. Stay tuned in the January mailing for the Mayors State of the Village address.



**2018 River Grove Tree Lighting Ceremony
Team Effort!**



Please Remember STOP Speeding...**STOP** Littering...
and **STOP** at Stop Signs...**FOR OUR KIDS!**